



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 06 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mr. Brandon L. Cavale
#20711-058
FCI Butner- Medium 1
P.O Box 1000
Butner, NC 27509

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-003883

Dear Mr. Cavale:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act request for copies of the Environmental Protection Agency's FY 2016, 2017, and 2018 budget requests sent to the White House. According to the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget Circular Number A-11, Section 22, paragraph 22.1, the nature and amounts of the President's decisions and the underlying materials are confidential. This is further described in OMB Memoranda 01-17--Confidentiality of Pre-Decisional Budget Information, issued on April 25, 2001, which reiterates the need to preserve internal deliberations regarding the various issues and options that were considered in the process leading to the President's decisions as internal records. The information you requested concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's FY 2016, 2017, and 2018 budget requests sent to the White House are internal and deliberative.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has concluded its search for records responsive to your request and has no records that can be released. The requested records in full are being withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege. The records are exempt from disclosure because they are pre-decisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision making if released. The cost to process your request is \$0.00.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at hq.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the National Freedom of Information Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T), Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only). Only items mailed through the U.S. Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20004. Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be received no later

than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar day limit. Appeals received after 5:00pm EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal". Additionally, you may seek assistance from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, 301-837-1996 or 1-877-684-6448; and facsimile, 301-837-0348.

If you have any more questions or concerns about this response, please contact me at williams.maria@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maria Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Maria Williams, Deputy Director
Office of Budget
U.S. EPA, OCFO/OB (2732A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-3021 (phone)
202-564-1836 (fax)

cc: Chandra Kennedy, OCFO FOIA Officer
Charlene Godfrey, OCFO FOIA Officer